

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 28 MAY 2009

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(50) Program: Internal Product

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 63-64) asked:

At page 60, for the onshore detention network, the total for the program is going down from \$91 million to \$66 million. Provide an explanation as to where the money from the onshore detention network program is being redirected to.

Answer:

Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network (Administered Expenses)

The amounts of \$91.605 million for 2008-09 and \$66.949 million for 2009-10 mentioned on page 60 and 75 of the 2009-10 Portfolio Budget Statements consist of the following administered items:

- Community and Detention Services Contracts;
- Payments under Section 33 (FMA Act) – Act of Grace Payments; and
- Expenses not requiring appropriations in the budget year – Recovery of Immigration Reception & Processing Centre (IRPC) Detention Costs and Recovery of Removal charges.

The main reasons for the reduction in funding are:

- the transfer of \$17.392 million in Departmental and Administered funding to the Refugee and Humanitarian Assistance (Program 2.1) and the Visa Compliance and Status Resolution (Program 4.1) in accordance with the Government's *New Directions in Detention* policy statement announced in July 2008; and
- the reduction of \$11 million in the Recovery of Detention Costs item following the Government's decision to cease recovering some detention costs.

The following table is a detailed summary of all movements for this item during the 2009-10 Budget round.

Program 4.2: Onshore Detention Network (Administered Expenses)

	2008-09 (\$m)	2009-10 (\$m)
Community and Detention Services Contracts		
Opening balance as at Budget 2009-10	82.751	87.998
Amount transferred to new program 4.4 administered item - Illegal Foreign Fishers - Community and Detention Services Contracts (page 77)	-8.646	-8.762
Measure - <i>New Directions in Detention</i> : Administered funding transferred to Immigration Advice and Application Assistance Scheme \$2.600 million (Program 2.1 page 50) and Compliance Resolution, Community Care and Assistance \$7.732 million (Program 4.1 page 75) and to Departmental funding \$7.064 million (page 19 and 20)		-17.392
Parameter adjustment - March 2009		-1.195
Total Community and Detention Services Contracts	<u>74.105</u>	<u>60.649</u>
Payments under Section 33 (FMA Act):		
Opening balance as at Budget 2009-10	0.700	0.100
Movement of administered funds from 2008-09 to 2009-10	-0.200	0.200
Total Payments under Section 33 (FMA Act)	<u>0.500</u>	<u>0.300</u>
Adjustment to Recovery Of Immigration Reception & Processing Centre (IRPC) Detention Costs and Recovery of Removal Charges (non-cash items)		
Opening balance as at Budget 2009-10	24.000	24.000
Reduction in estimate	-7.000 ^(a)	-18.000 ^(b)
Expenses not requiring appropriations in the Budget year	<u>17.000</u>	<u>6.000</u>
Total Program 4.2 - Administered Expenses	<u>91.605</u>	<u>66.949</u>

(a) The reduction from the 2008-09 Additional Estimate (\$7 million) is due to the reduced number of people in immigration detention following the implementation of new detention values announced in *New Directions in Detention* in July 2008.

(b) The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship introduced a Bill to abolish the detention debts on 18 March 2009 (Migration Amendment Abolishing Detention Debt Bill 2009) which will waive all existing debts for current and former detainees. This will reduce the estimate by a further \$11 million from 2009-10. People convicted of people smuggling or illegal foreign fishing will still be liable for their costs of detention and removal. The liability for costs associated with the removal or deportation of unlawful non-citizens will also remain unchanged.